

Three Ways to Insert Proof in Your Paper

1. P - I - E = Point Illustration Explanation
Make a point.
Illustrate the point with something from the text.
Explain how the illustration proves your point.
2. Quotation sandwich:
Bread—Say where a quotation comes from or who said it
Filling—Quotation, summary, or paraphrase
Bread—Say what this adds to your paper without repeating the quote
3. Use different levels of detail in a quote and a comment (be more general or more specific).
If the quotation is fact, talk about it in ideas.
If ideas, talk about it in facts.
Don't simply repeat the quote in different words.
Idea: Arizona is too hot to require students to wear long pants to school.
Information: When the temperature rises above 100°, Cholla students wear shorts.

Remember that these are formulas; try not to let your writing look formulaic. That means that some P-I-E paragraphs will be I-I-I-E-E-P or P-I-I-I-E-E or P-I-I-E-I-E. Remember, too, that the 5-paragraph essay, though handy on an essay test, isn't necessarily the best formula for *all* writing.

Kinds of evidence

Point

A thesis statement (assertion) or a topic sentence for a paragraph

Illustration

quotations or summaries from a source
examples or illustrations
facts or statistics
pictures, drawings, or charts
rules, laws, or records
stories or memories
expert or witness testimony or opinion
past experience
metaphor or simile comparing one subject to another

Explanation

What does the evidence prove?
Why is it included in the essay?
How does the illustration prove the point?